



**To: The State of Michigan [Senate and House Appropriations Committee]
309 N. Washington Square, Suite 011
Lansing, MI 48933**

**From: Federation of Youth and Family Services
Teenage Pregnancy Program-Transitional Housing & Outreach Services
528 E. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48207**

Re: Line item: Teenage Parent Counseling Executive Order Budget Recommendation

Albeit the state of Michigan has to make drastic changes to the Fiscal year Budget for 2007-2008, fiscal restraint should be taken into care to prevent the further amelioration of needed services to protect and nurture our Teenage citizens from Homelessness, High Attrition Rates of Abortion, Teenage Drop-out Rates, Premature Births, Abuse and Neglect due to lack of Financial Assistance to care for Teenage Pregnancies, and other Social ills that result from further eliminations of these needed services.

The Benefits of these needed services affect our Communities Statewide and will pose a detriment to the Health and Welfare of this already at-Risk Population. Every Child in the State of Michigan is entitled to State protection that will further their Social, Economic, and safety that will allow them to have a healthy and fair chance to succeed in life, remember that they are a product of our environment and some of them are statics of the Social Environment they come from, weather it be from dysfunctional families, inner city poverty, lack of guidance and mentoring etc, etc. Whatever, the result, these Children should not be cut off from the assistance they so desperately need.

As addressed in the State of the State Address by Governor Jennifer Granholm during her inaugural address for the yr. 2007-2008, was stressed the need to not leave any Child behind, Whether it be Poverty, Education, Job Training, Health care, Counseling and Mentoring. These are very essential services that will enhance the goals of Protecting Children/Teenagers and not leaving them to fend for themselves.

"FYS provides innovative quality comprehensive human services to residential, community-based, homeless children and families in a congruent ever changing world."

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The Tax Redistribution System and the Wealth Re-Allocation in this State is a disgrace; for lack of a better phrase, [we have robbed the poor for the benefit of the rich] If this Great State can assist Corporations with tax breaks that has put the hole in the States Budget, We should be able to care for the Teenagers of this State with which their parents may be unfit to care for them, Unable (financially) and/ or incarcerated, not that it is the States sole responsibility, but rather that we should not drop the safety-net to help prevent such further social disasters as addressed above.

Our Non-profit agency at the Federation of Youth and Family Services as-well-as other Human Services Agencies in the State of Michigan have been working at reduced budgets since The Welfare Reform Act for the previous decade, Our Federal Block Grants have been cut along with other State Funding sources. It is difficult to continue to force Human/Social Services Agencies to continue to integrate service that are already consolidated to become inefficient to the growing populations we serve. We need long term solutions to the current social problem we face as a State, Temporary Assistance For Needy Families is only a very small component to address the already reduced budgets (Federal Funding;-Millions) to solve these existing problems.

The State of Michigan can not and should not turn its back on the Children we are supposed to nurture, Guide and raise in the best interest of the State and its citizens; to preserve and maintain stability.

Some of the Goals that we seek to implement at the Federation of Youth and Family Services to improve the quality of life for our at-Risk Teenage-population is the completion of an Educational Program that will allow our target teens (Pregnant Mothers) to become productive citizens in the Community. We assist them with referrals for Vocational training, Schools that provide day care services while the Teenage-Parent attends School, Routine Health Care and Family Planning for teens, Prenatal Care and Full Term Delivery for Healthy Infants, Child Development and Parenting Education, Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention. These services are enhanced by Crisis Intervention Services, Referrals to Community Resources, Group and Family Counseling.

It is our goal and responsibility to empower Pregnant and Parenting Teens families to reach their maximum potential to become self-sufficient individuals through continuing education, direct services, referrals and advocacy.

These programs have successful outcomes and is making an impact on the population we serve, there is less 'State Intervention' by the State of Michigan Foster Care Agencies, Protective Services and other intervention agencies as a result of these provided services. There are also less stress related incidents that lead to depression and other Psychosocial issues that may affect Teenage Parents.

Therefore, in considerations of these essential needed services to foster and protect our Teenagers and the Communities-at-large from further social harms, cutting such Funding from Line item-**Teenage Parent Counseling Funding** would pose grave detriment to already at risk teenagers. Weather it be embryo, infant, toddler, adolescence or teenager, Let's support Michigan's children with Guidance and Counseling that will mentor and sustain them in the right direction and make this the Great State of Leaving No Child Behind !!

Lets not only talk rhetoric but rather take action, the Children are depending on us.

Cc: Senate Appropriations committee

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Respondent; D. Walker FYS/City of Detroit
Cc. Delores May, Director FYS
528 E. Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48207

-Federation of Youth Services-